

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original): A method comprising validating a configuration setting of a first application for use with a second application, wherein:

the configuration setting including a first field and a first description of a first condition for the first field;

the second application is composed of computer instructions, the computer instructions having an attribute, the attribute providing a second description of a second condition for a second field; and

the validating includes:

if the first field corresponds to the second field, then comparing the first description of the first condition with the second description of the second condition to determine whether the first condition is met by the second condition; and

if met, then determining that the configuration setting is valid for use with the second application.

2. (Currently amended): A method as described in claim 1, wherein the first and second conditions are value constraints selected from the group consisting of:

an integer range;

a float range;

a value set;

a ~~string~~ string pattern;

cardinality of a collection;

1 a mandatory value; and
2 an optional value.

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4 3. (Original): A method as described in claim 1, wherein the first and second
5 conditions are default values.

6
7 4. (Original): A method as described in claim 1, wherein the first and second
8 conditions are textual descriptions selected from the group consisting of:
9 a description of units in which the respective first and second fields are expressed;
10 a description of meanings of the respective first and second fields; and
11 an example of values of the first and second fields.

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13 5. (Original): A method as described in claim 1, wherein the attribute:
14 is a declarative tag that that may be retrieved from and during execution of the
15 second application; and
16 does not determine the value of the field.

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18 6. (Original): A method as described in claim 1, further comprising
19 communicating a result of the validating to the first application.

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22 7. (Original): A method as described in claim 1, wherein the configuration
23 setting further comprises a field type.

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25 8. (Original): One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-

executable instructions that, when executed, perform the method as recited in claim 1.

9. (Original): A method comprising:

reading a first configuration setting of a first application including a first field and a first description of a first condition for the first field;

examining a second application to find a second configuration setting that corresponds to the first configuration setting, wherein the second application is composed of computer instructions, the computer instructions having an attribute, the attribute providing a second description of a second condition for a second field, the second configuration setting having the second field and the second description; and

comparing the second description of the second condition with the first description of the first condition to determine whether the second condition is met by the first condition, and if met then determining that the second configuration setting is valid for use with the first application.

10. (Currently amended): A method as described in claim 9, wherein the first and second conditions are value constraints selected from the group consisting of:

an integer range;

a float range;

a value set;

a ~~sting~~ string pattern;

cardinality of a collection;

a mandatory value; and

an optional value.

11. (Original): A method as described in claim 9, wherein the first and second conditions are default values.

12. (Original): A method as described in claim 9, wherein the first and second conditions are textual descriptions selected from the group consisting of:

a description of units in which the respective first and second fields are expressed;

a description of meanings of the respective first and second fields; and

an example of values of the first and second fields.

13. (Original): One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform the method as recited in claim 9.

14. (Currently amended): A method comprising:

executing a documenter to find a plurality of fields in an application, wherein:

the application is composed of computer instructions;

the computer instructions having attributes; and

each said attribute providing a description of a condition for a respective said field,

forming a configuration file having a plurality of configuration settings of the application, wherein each said configuration setting includes one said field and the description of the condition for the one said field; and

outputting the configuration file; and

utilizing the configuration file to validate configuration settings.

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2 15. (Currently amended): A method as described in claim 14, wherein the
3 condition is a value constraint selected from the group consisting of:

4 an integer range;

5 a float range;

6 a value set;

7 a ~~string~~ string pattern;

8 cardinality of a collection;

9 a mandatory value; and

10 an optional value.
11

12 16. (Original): A method as described in claim 14, wherein the condition is a
13 default value.
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15 17. (Original): A method as described in claim 14, wherein the condition is a
16 textual description selected from the group consisting of:

17 a description of a unit in which the respective said field is expressed;

18 a description of meanings of the respective said field; and

19 an example of a value of the respective said field.
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21
22 18. (Original): One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-
23 executable instructions that perform the method as recited in claim 14.
24

25 19. (Original): A method comprising:

1 generating a configuration file having a plurality of configuration settings derived
2 from a first application, wherein:

3 the application is composed of computer instructions;

4 the computer instructions having attributes;

5 each said attribute providing a description of a condition for a field; and

6 each said configuration setting having one said field and a corresponding
7 said description; and

8 validating whether the first application is valid for use with a second said
9 application by comparing each said configuration setting of the first application with a
10 corresponding said configuration setting of the second said application to determine
11 whether each said condition of the first application is met by a corresponding said
12 condition of the second application.

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14 20. (Currently amended): A method as described in claim 19, wherein each
15 condition is a value constraint selected from the group consisting of:

16 an integer range;

17 a float range;

18 a value set;

19 a ~~string~~ string pattern;

20 cardinality of a collection;

21 a mandatory value; and

22 an optional value.
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25 21. (Original): A method as described in claim 19, wherein each condition is

1 a default value.

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3 22. (Original): A method as described in claim 19, wherein each condition is
4 a textual description selected from the group consisting of:

5 a unit in which a corresponding said field is expressed;
6 description of a meanings of a corresponding said field; and
7 an example of a value a corresponding said field.

8
9 23. (Original): One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-
10 executable instructions that, when executed, perform the method as recited in claim 19.

11
12 24. (Original): A computer-readable medium comprising computer-
13 executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, direct the computer to:

14 read a first configuration setting of a first application that includes a first field and
15 a first description of a first condition for the first field; and

16 validate whether the first condition is met by a second application, wherein:

17 the second application is composed of computer instructions;

18 the computer instructions have an attribute that provides a second
19 description of a second condition for a second field; and

20 the first condition is validated through comparison with the second
21 condition.
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23
24 25. (Currently amended): A computer-readable medium as described in claim
25 24, wherein the first and second conditions are value constraints selected from the group

consisting of:

- an integer range;
- a float range;
- a value set;
- a ~~string~~ string pattern;
- cardinality of a collection;
- a mandatory value; and
- an optional value.

26. (Original): A computer-readable medium as described in claim 24, wherein the first and second conditions are default values.

27. (Original): A computer-readable medium as described in claim 24, wherein the first and second conditions are textual descriptions selected from the group consisting of:

- a description of units in which the first and second fields are expressed;
- a description of meanings of the first and second fields; and
- an example of values of the first and second fields.

28. (Original): A computer comprising:

- a processor; and
- memory configured to maintain:

- a first application composed of computer instructions, the computer instructions having an attribute, the attribute providing a first description of a first

condition for a first field;

a configuration file including a configuration setting of a second application having a second field and a second description of a second condition for the second field; and

a configuration module that, when executed on the processor, validates the configuration setting for use with the first application by comparing the second description of the second condition with the first description of the first condition to determine whether the second condition is met by the first condition, and if met, then determining that the configuration setting is valid for use with the first application.

29. (Original): A computer as described in claim 28, wherein the second application is stored in the memory.

30. (Original): A computer as described in claim 28, wherein the configuration file is received in a transmission from a network for storage in the memory.

31. (Original): A computer as described in claim 28, wherein the first and second conditions are selected from the group consisting of:

a value constraint;

a default value;

a description of units in which the first and second fields are expressed;

a description of meanings of the first and second fields; and

an example of values of the first and second fields.

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2 32. (Original): A computer comprising:

3 a processor; and

4 memory configured to maintain:

5 a first application composed of computer instructions, the computer
6 instructions having an attribute, the attribute providing a first description of a first
7 condition for a first field, and wherein a first configuration setting includes the
8 first description and the first field;

9 a configuration file including a second configuration setting of a second
10 application having a second field and a second description of a second condition
11 for the second field; and

12 a configuration module that, when executed on the processor, validates the
13 first configuration setting for use with the second application by comparing the
14 first description of the first condition with the second description of the second
15 condition to determine whether the first condition is met by the second condition,
16 and if met, then determining that the first configuration setting is valid for use
17 with the second application.
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20 33. (Original): A computer as described in claim 32, wherein the second
21 application is stored in the memory.

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23 34. (Original): A computer as described in claim 32, wherein the
24 configuration file is received over a network and stored in the memory.
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1 35. (Original): A computer as described in claim 32, wherein the first and
2 second conditions are selected from the group consisting of:

3 a value constraint;

4 a default value;

5 a description of units in which the first and second fields are expressed;

6 a description of meanings of the first and second fields; and

7 an example of values of the first and second fields.

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9 36. (Currently amended): A content server comprising:

10 a broadcast transmitter configured to provide media content to a client in response
11 to a request from the client;

12 a processor; and

13 memory configured to maintain:

14 a first application that when executed provides media content for
15 broadcast by the broadcast transmitter, wherein the application is composed of
16 computer instructions, the computer instructions have attributes, and each said
17 attribute provides a description of a condition for a field; and

18 a documenter that is executable on the processor to generate a
19 configuration file having a configuration setting of the first application, wherein
20 the configuration setting includes the field and the description of the condition for
21 the field.
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23
24 37. (Currently amended): A content server as described in claim 36, wherein
25 ~~the first and second conditions are~~ condition is a value constraints constraint selected

from the group consisting of:

- an integer range;
- a float range;
- a value set;
- a ~~string~~ string pattern;
- cardinality of a collection;
- a mandatory value; and
- an optional value.

38. (Currently amended): A content server as described in claim 36, wherein
~~the first and second conditions are~~ condition is a default values value.

39. (Currently Amended): A content server as described in claim 36, wherein
~~the first and second conditions are~~ condition is a textual descriptions selected from the
group consisting of:

- a description of units in which the first and second fields are expressed;
- a description of meanings of the first and second fields; and
- an example of values of the first and second fields.

40. (Original): A content server comprising:
a first application composed of computer instructions, the computer instructions
having attributes, and each said attribute providing a description of a condition for a field;
a configuration module that is executable to validate whether each said condition
is met by a second application; and

1 a documenter that is executable to generate a configuration file having a
2 configuration setting of the first application, wherein the configuration setting includes
3 the field and the description of the condition.
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5 41. (Original): A content server as described in claim 40, further comprising a
6 broadcast transmitter, wherein the first application, when executed, provides content for
7 broadcast by the broadcast transmitter.
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9 42. (Currently amended): A content server as described in claim 40, wherein
10 each said condition is a value constraint selected from the group consisting of:

11 an integer range;
12 a float range;
13 a value set;
14 a ~~sting~~ string pattern;
15 cardinality of a collection;
16 a mandatory value; and
17 an optional value.
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20 43. (Original): A content server as described in claim 40, wherein each said
21 condition is a default value.
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23 44. (Original): A content server as described in claim 40, wherein each said
24 condition is a textual description selected from the group consisting of:

25 a description of a unit in which a respective said field is expressed;

1 a description of a meaning of a respective said field; and
2 an example of a values of a respective said field.

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4 45. (Original): A system comprising:

5 a network;

6 a first computer communicatively coupled to the network and including a first
7 application composed of computer instructions, the computer instructions having a first
8 attribute that provides a first description of a first condition for the first field, wherein a
9 first configuration setting includes the first field and the first description;

10 a second computer communicatively coupled to the network and including:

11 a second application composed of computer instructions having a second
12 attribute that provides a second description of a second condition for a second
13 field; and

14 a configuration module that is executable by the second computer to
15 validate the first configuration setting for use with the second application by
16 comparing the first description of the first condition with the second description
17 of the second condition.

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20 46. (Original): A system as described in claim 45, wherein the first computer
21 is configured as a set-top box and the second computer is configured as a content server.

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23 47. (Original): A system as described in claim 45, wherein the first and
24 second conditions are selected from the group consisting of:

25 a value constraint;

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a default value;

a description of units in which the first and second fields are expressed;

a description of meanings of the first and second fields; and

an example of values of the first and second fields.